Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 01874 071001Z ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 IO-13 /082 W

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P R 021044Z JUL 77 ZDK FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6012 USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 1365 INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON AMEMBASSY OTTAWA AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

CONFIDENTIAL LUSAKA 1874

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PDEV WA

SUBJ: SWAPO ON TALKS WITH CONTACT GROUP

1. HAGE GEINGOB, DIRECTOR OF THE NAMIBIA INSTITUTE AND MEMBER OF THE SWAPO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, TOLD THE AMBASSADOR JULY 1 THAT CHANCES WERE GOOD THAT SWAPO WOULD SEND A HIGH LEVEL DELEGATION TO NEW YORK FOR TALKS WITH THE CONTACT GROUP. HE SAID THAT PRESENT TENTATIVE PLANS WERE FOR SWAPO'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO MEET IN LUSAKA PRIOR TO THE NEW YORK MEETING. GEINGOB STRESSED THAT SWAPO'S MAIN CONCERN IN ITS APPROACH TO THE PACKAGE DEVELOPED THUS FAR BY CONTACT GROUP WAS PROMINENT ROLE LEFT TO SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT. SWAPO'S DISTRUST OF VORSTER IS AN OVERIDING CONSIDERATION.

2. GEINGOB SAID THAT SWAPO HAD CONSIDERED ASKING OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LUSAKA 01874 071001Z

CONTACT GROUP COULD ARRANGE FOR THE RELEASE OF TOIOVO FROM PRISON TO ATTEND THE NEW YORK MEETING. AFTER DISCUSSION, DECISION HAD BEEN MADE NOT TO MAKE THE REQUEST SINCE IT MIGHT BE "DISRUPTIVE" AND SHOULD BE RAISED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE BROADER QUESTION OF PRISONER EXCHANGE. ASKED IF SWAPO WOULD REALLY WELCOME THE RELEASE OF TOIOVO, HE SAID YES. SWAPO LEADERS ARE DEEPLY DISTRESSED BY THE

CONTINUED CONFINEMENT OF TOIOVO WHO HAD NEVER BEEN INVOLVED IN THE GUERRILLA STRUGGLE WHILE THEY ARE AT LIBERTY AND NEGOTIATING A SETTLEMENT. HE MENTIONED THAT RELEASING TOIOVO, EVEN IF IT WERE JUST FOR THE DURATION OF THE NEW YORK MEETING, WOULD BE A MOST WELCOME DEVELOPMENT.

3. COMMENT: GEINGOB'S CONCERNS ABOUT THE ROLE OF SOUTH AFRICA IN A NAMIBIAN SETTLEMENT WERE OBVIOUSLY SINCERE. HE WAS NOT PRESSING FOR THE RELEASE OF TOIOVO, BUT IT STRIKES US THAT, IF HIS RELEASE COULD BE ARRANGED FOR THE DUMNATION OF THE MEETINGS IN NEW YORK, IT COULD REPRESENT A MAJOR STEP TO OVERCOME SOME OF SWAPO'S SUSPICIONS ABOUT SOUTH AFRICA'S TRUE INTENTIONS. LOW

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, MEETING DELEGATIONS, NEGOTIATIONS

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 02-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am

Decaption Note:

Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 22 May 2009 Disposition Event:

Disposition Event:
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LUSAKA01874
Document Source: CORD

Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS

Errors: N/A **Expiration:**

Film Number: D770241-0073

Format: TEL From: LUSAKA

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770795/aaaadeur.tel

Line Count: 76 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History: Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Message ID: 39dcf071-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION AF

Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 22-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 1976976 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: SWAPO ON TALKS WITH CONTACT GROUP TAGS: PDEV, WA, US, SWAPO, (GEINGOB, HAGE)
To: STATE USUN NEW YORK

Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/39dcf071-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009